

## **Agency Organization Overview**

The **Administrative Services Division** provides administrative support functions to the agency, including human resources, risk management, emergency management, information technology, licensing, records retention, office space, warehousing and mail services.

The **Agriculture and Consumer Protection (ACP) Division** was created September 1, 2011, by merging the former pesticide and regulatory programs and incorporating regional operations. With the loss of many positions as a result of budget reductions as well as the loss of employees in key leadership positions through retirement, TDA took the opportunity to review the structure of the agency and find ways to more efficiently manage the programs that the legislature has entrusted to the department. The new division has not only brought about increased efficiencies, but has also been structured in a way that better serves stakeholders. The division is divided into two areas – Consumer Protection and Agriculture Protection and Certification.

ACP programs ensure the quality and quantity of various consumer products and services, and involve a wide variety of responsibilities aimed at enforcing statutory requirements and providing value-added certification of agricultural products. TDA's consumer protection programs include inspecting grocery store scales and gas pumps for accuracy; ensuring eggs meet specific quality standards, verifying that motor fuel meets national standards, registering pesticides for safe and responsible use by applicators, and mandating that pest control applications are performed safely by qualified individuals. TDA's agriculture protection and certification programs ensure that planting seed sold in Texas is truthfully labeled; verify that nursery and floral products sold in Texas are free from harmful pests and diseases; and ensure pesticides are sold and used in accordance with state and federal pesticide laws. TDA also certifies seed for domestic and foreign markets, and also is recognized by USDA to certify agricultural products and livestock as organic.

The **Office of Communications** ensures that information about TDA and its programs are communicated to the public and news media in a timely, professional manner.

The **Financial Services Division** provides financial support functions to the agency, including financial management, purchasing, accounts payable, budget, and contracts management.

The **Food & Nutrition Division** is responsible for safeguarding the health and well-being of the state's citizens by ensuring nutritionally adequate meals are provided; encouraging adults and children to gain an understanding of the relationship between proper eating and good health; and providing learning experiences designed to result in healthier lifestyle choices.

TDA assists in ensuring the health and well-being of the state's citizens by providing funding for nutritionally adequate meals; encouraging adults and children to gain an understanding of the relationship between proper eating and good health; and providing learning experiences for nutrition professionals to assist them in preparing healthy meals designed to result in healthier lifestyle choices. The Food and Nutrition Division endeavors to truly alleviate hunger in the Lone Star State by connecting families with opportunities, such as job training and education, which can help them navigate the journey to self-sufficiency, thereby providing a bridge to success for Texas families.

The **General Counsel** provides ethics and legal advice to all programs and divisions and is the agency's liaison with the state's attorney general. The Enforcement Section prosecutes administrative violations of consumer laws and regulations pertaining to plants, seeds, egg quality, weights and measures, commodity warehouses and the Agriculture Code and related rules.

The **Office of Internal Audit** is the independent auditor established within TDA to examine and evaluate its activities as a service to the agency. OIA furnishes the agency with analyses, appraisals, recommendations, counsel and information concerning the activities reviewed.

The **Office of Policy & External Relations Division** serves as an agency liaison working with stakeholders, producer groups, researchers and local, state and federal governments. This division supports oversight of the state's 10 active commodity boards and the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. Staff assists in convening the commissioner's Advisory Boards. The office monitors legislative and regulatory activities impacting Texas agricultural producers and consumers and maintains relations with federal, state, local and foreign governments on a wide range of agricultural and rural issues.

The **Trade and Business Development Division** works to support TDA's mission by improving and empowering rural communities through economic development, infrastructure improvements and advancement in health care. The division also markets and promotes Texas products, cultures and communities through the GO TEXAN branded campaign and provides grants, loans and other opportunities to promote and support Texas agriculture.